

Observatório da Emigração

Hong Kong

A. Annual series

A.1 Foreign-born population, 1991-2021

Years	Total Population		Foreign-born						
	N	Change in	All foreign-born			Born in Portugal			
			N	% of total	Change in	N	% of total	As a % of all foreign-born	Change in
2021	7 413 070	-1.1	2 793 450	37.7	-5.7	--	--	--	--
2020	7 496 988	0.8	2 962 492	39.5	0.7	113	0.0	0.0	-19.9
2019	7 436 154	1.0	2 942 254	39.6	3.6	141	0.0	0.0	28.2
2017	7 364 883	0.4	2 838 665	38.6	-1.6	110	0.0	0.0	--
2016	7 336 585	2.1	2 885 092	39.3	1.6	--	--	--	--
2015	7 185 992	1.6	2 841 113	39.5	1.7	109	0.0	0.0	--
2011	7 071 576	1.5	2 793 450	39.5	0.5	--	--	--	--
2010	6 966 324	1.5	2 779 950	39.9	2.0	107	0.0	0.0	1.9
2006	6 864 346	1.4	2 725 502	39.7	0.2	105	0.0	0.0	7.1
2005	6 769 579	0.9	2 721 235	40.2	0.7	98	0.0	0.0	-17.6
2001	6 708 389	1.5	2 703 495	40.3	1.3	119	0.0	0.0	32.2
2000	6 606 328	6.2	2 669 122	40.4	8.1	90	0.0	0.0	-63.7
1996	6 217 556	12.6	2 468 224	39.7	11.0	248	0.0	0.0	131.8
1991	5 522 281	--	2 222 684	40.2	--	107	0.0	0.0	--

Note

Under the provisions on the application of the Chinese nationality law, which entered into force in 1997, residents of Hong Kong or mainland China with Chinese descent, even if holders of a British (or Portuguese) passport after the transfer of sovereignty Of Macao), were, as a rule, considered Chinese citizens. For purposes of comparability, the Census and Statistics Department estimated the numbers for 1991 and 1996, if these provisions were in force at the time, and recorded the amounts of 282,707 and 529,372 foreigners (i.e. non-Chinese), respectively. This revision was not carried out for residents of Portuguese nationality, so that the significant drop in their number between 1996 and 2001 could be explained, in large part, by the change of status before the law of Chinese nationality of a large number of bearers of a Portuguese Passport. Although Hong Kong is not considered a country, it is currently a "Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China" (under British administration until June 30th, 1997); for the variable born abroad, we considered who was born outside the territory of Hong Kong; the number of foreigners corresponds, in pre-1997 years, to the number of non-British citizens, according to the status they had at that time; after 1997, the number of foreigners submitted refers to the number of non-Chinese citizens.

The data from 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 were revised by the UN and amended by OEm on 23/11/2022.

Source Table by Observatório da Emigração [Emigration Observatory], data from

Census and Statistics Department – The Government of Hong Kong Administrative Region (nascidos em Portugal e nacionalidade portuguesa, informação concedida mediante pedido), [Hong Kong 1991 population census: main report \(1991\)](#), [Hong Kong 2011 main tables](#), demographic carecteristics, [Population by Place of Birth, 2001, 2006 and 2011 \(A106\)](#) and [Population by Nationality, 2001, 2006 and 2011 \(A105\)](#); [2021 Census](#) (population with Portuguese nationality granted upon request); [United Nations Statistics Division \(2017\)](#), [United Nations Statistics Division \(2019\)](#) and [United Nations Statistics Division \(other data\)](#) (the UN figures are estimates).

A.1.1 Residents born in Portugal by sex, 2000-2020

Years	All foreign-born		Female		Male	
	N	N	% of total	N	% of total	
2020	113	69	61.1	44	38.9	
2019	141	86	61.0	55	39.0	
2017	110	66	60.0	44	40.0	
2015	109	65	59.6	44	40.4	
2010	107	61	57.0	46	43.0	
2005	98	54	55.1	44	44.9	
2000	90	47	52.2	43	47.8	

Source Table by Observatório da Emigração [Emigration Observatory], data from [United Nations Statistics Division \(2017\)](#), [United Nations Statistics Division \(2019\)](#) and [United Nations Statistics Division \(other data\)](#) (the UN figures are estimates).

A.2 Foreign population, 1991-2021

Years	Total Population		All foreign-born						
	N	Change in	All foreign-born			Foreigners with Portuguese citizenship			
			N	% of total	Change in	N	% of total	As a % of all foreigners	Change in
2021	7 413 070	-1.1	485 000	6.6	--	599	0.0	0.0	--
2020	7 496 988	0.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2019	7 436 154	1.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2017	7 364 883	0.4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2016	7 336 585	2.1	568 395	7.8	--	328	0.0	0.0	--
2015	7 185 992	1.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2011	7 071 576	1.5	485 000	6.9	--	538	0.0	0.0	--
2010	6 966 324	1.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2006	6 864 346	1.4	404 073	5.9	--	569	0.0	0.0	--
2005	6 769 579	0.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2001	6 708 389	1.5	369 627	5.5	--	347	0.0	0.0	--
2000	6 606 328	6.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1996	6 217 556	12.6	--	--	--	20 738	0.3	0.8	12.2
1991	5 522 281	--	2 159 335	39.1	--	18 488	0.3	0.8	--

Note Under the provisions on the application of the Chinese nationality law, which entered into force in 1997, residents of Hong Kong or mainland China with Chinese descent, even if holders of a British (or Portuguese) passport after the transfer of sovereignty Of Macao), were, as a rule, considered Chinese citizens. For purposes of comparability, the Census and Statistics Department estimated the numbers for 1991 and 1996, if these provisions were in force at the time, and recorded the amounts of 282,707 and 529,372 foreigners (i.e. non-Chinese), respectively. This revision was not carried out for residents of Portuguese nationality, so that the significant drop in their number between 1996 and 2001 could be explained, in large part, by the change of status before the law of Chinese nationality of a large number of bearers of a Portuguese Passport. Although Hong Kong is not considered a country, it is currently a "Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China" (under British administration until June 30th, 1997); for the variable born abroad, we considered who was born outside the territory of Hong Kong; the number of foreigners corresponds, in pre-1997 years, to the number of non-British citizens, according to the status they had at that time; after 1997, the number of foreigners submitted refers to the number of non-Chinese citizens. The data from 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 were revised by the UN and amended by OEM on 23/11/2022.

Source Table by Observatório da Emigração [Emigration Observatory], data from [Census and Statistics Department – The Government of Hong Kong Administrative Region](#) (nascidos em Portugal e nacionalidade portuguesa, informação concedida mediante pedido), [Hong Kong 1991 population census: main report \(1991\)](#), [Hong Kong 2011 main tables](#), demographic carecteristics, [Population by Place of Birth, 2001, 2006 and 2011 \(A106\)](#) and [Population by Nationality, 2001, 2006 and 2011 \(A105\)](#); [2021 Census](#) (population with Portuguese nationality granted upon request); [United Nations Statistics Division \(2017\)](#), [United Nations Statistics Division \(2019\)](#) and [United Nations Statistics Division \(other data\)](#) (the UN figures are estimates).

A.2.1 Resident population with Portuguese citizenship by sex, 2001-2021

Years	All foreign-born		Female		Male	
	N	% of total	N	% of total	N	% of total
2021	599	41.4	248	41.4	351	58.6
2016	328	33.2	109	33.2	219	66.8
2011	538	64.9	349	64.9	189	35.1
2006	569	48.2	274	48.2	295	51.8
2001	347	63.1	219	63.1	128	36.9

Source Table by Observatório da Emigração [Emigration Observatory], data from [Census and Statistics Department – The Government of Hong Kong Administrative Region](#), data granted upon request.

A.4 Foreign inflows , 2006-2022

Years	Total inflows		Portuguese inflows		
	N	Change in	N	% of total	Change in
2022	13 495	-2.4	38	0.3	15.2
2021	13 821	-5.4	33	0.2	-43.1
2020	14 617	-64.6	58	0.4	-52.5
2019	41 289	-0.7	122	0.3	1.7
2018	41 592	4.1	120	0.3	-33.7
2017	39 952	11.0	181	0.5	98.9
2016	35 997	4.6	91	0.3	3.4
2015	34 403	8.6	88	0.3	-3.3
2014	31 676	11.6	91	0.3	30.0
2013	28 380	-0.9	70	0.2	11.1
2012	28 625	-6.3	63	0.2	-18.2
2011	30 557	13.7	77	0.3	18.5
2010	26 881	17.8	65	0.2	--
2009	22 815	-13.4	--	--	--
2008	26 344	16.4	--	--	--
2007	22 636	7.4	--	--	--
2006	21 080	--	--	--	--

Note Data correspondent to the number of working visas granted to foreigners by the Immigration Department during the fiscal year ended on March 31st of the (civil) year, indicated and inniciated on April 1st of the precious year.

Source Table by Observatório da Emigração [Emigration Observatory], data from [Immigration Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Annual Report 2007-2008](#) (data from 2006, 2007 and 2008), [Annual Report 2008-09](#) (data from 2009), (accessed in 13/10/2011). From 2010 onwards information granted upor request.

A.5 Acquisition of citizenship of the destination country, 2008-2010

Years	Acquisition of citizenship by all foreigners		Acquisition of citizenship by Portuguese		
	N	Change in		% of total	Change in
2010	1 278	-14.5	--	--	--
2009	1 495	-6.0	--	--	--
2008	1 591	--	--	--	--

Note Data correspondent to the number of applications for naturalization and (Chinese) nationality received (not necessarily granted) by the Immigration Department during the fiscal year ending on March 31st of the (civil) year indicated and inniciated on April 1st of the precious year.

Source Table by Observatório da Emigração [Emigration Observatory], data from [Immigration Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; "Naturalisation, Renunciation or Restoration of Chinese Nationality" in Annual Report 2007-2008](#) (data from 2008), in [Annual Report 2008-09](#) (data from 2009) and in [Annual Report 2009-2010](#) (data from 2010) (accessed in 13/10/2011).

B. Census